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See page 10 for full article

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THURSDAY
Feb. 1, 2007
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\$18,000

in aid provided by
the Red Cross

8

Northwest students
displaced due to fire

\$600,000

of damage, not including
personal belongings

72°F

the temperature early
Saturday morning

MOURNIFUL NIGHT



FLAMES BURST through the roof of Carson Apartments where two people died, and one was seriously injured on Saturday morning around 5 a.m. Officials said it started when a tenant, who was cooking French fries, fell asleep and awoke to a room full of flames and smoke that ultimately destroyed the building.

Lot becomes solemn relic

By Evan Young
Copy Editor

Smoke still billows from the mound of charred bricks, splintered wood and blackened insulation at 214 W. First St.

Bouquets flaunting a full rainbow of colors cling to the thin orange safety fence swaying back and forth in the bitter winter wind.

Not quite a week has passed since firefighters and their equipment crowded the sidewalk and street in front of Carson Apartments, battling an inferno that claimed two lives and dramatically changed a third.

Now, that West First Street sidewalk is empty, save for the millions of brick shards and ashes fossilized in a thick layer of ice.

The early Saturday morning fire resulted in the deaths of Derrick Schafer, 28, of New Market, Iowa, and Brandon Kaut, 22, of Appleton City, Mo.

see RELIC on A5



A SIGN that reads "You will be in our hearts forever," can be seen on the fencing surrounding the ruins of Carson Apartments on Sunday night. Friends gathered around 8 p.m. to honor the memory of Brandon Kaut, who was one of the two people who died in the fire.

Red Cross helps victims adjust

By Andrea James
Chief Reporter

As the firefighters finish their duty after Saturday's fire, Northwest and the Midland Empire Chapter of the American Red Cross, in St. Joseph step in to help people get back on their feet.

The Red Cross has met with 11 of the apartment's residents to assess their needs, said Karla Long, emergency services director for the chapter.

They are directly providing

between \$16,000 and \$18,000 in financial service.

"The money is going directly into those family's hands," Long said.

People who have been displaced by the fire will receive "assistance cards" from the Red Cross, according to a Red Cross press release. The assistance card allows these people to purchase food, clothes and anything else they may need to get back on their feet.

The Red Cross also will pay for

see RED CROSS on A5

—BUILDING BRIDGES PROJECT

Funding next step for proposal

By Kristin Summers
University Editor

Finding funds is next on the agenda for Northwest President Dean Hubbard.

After receiving suggestions from state officials, the next step for Hubbard's "Building Bridges" proposal is finding proper funds, which would roughly cost \$700,000 a year.

Hubbard, Maryville R-II School District Superintendent Vickie Miller, and Max Ruhl, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, met with state officials and two representatives from the Ewing Marion Kauff-

man Foundation on Jan. 25 in Jefferson City to receive input on the proposal.

The "Building Bridges" proposal, which imitates California's Early Assessment Program, plans to bridge the gap between high school and college curriculums.

The proposal has several objectives, one which plans to align grades K-12 academic standards with first-year courses at Northwest.

Hubbard, Miller and Ruhl met with Mary Cohen, secretary regional representative for the U.S. Department of Education in Kansas City, for input on the proposal, which Cohen is in favor of.

"Everybody is totally supportive," Hubbard said. "I'm just trying to line up the money."

Even though the proposal is open for input by others, there have been no major changes to the proposal, Hubbard said.

Hubbard hopes to have one of the objectives, helping high school seniors improving their reading skills, in effect by this fall.

In the proposal, Hubbard plans to work with Northwest's 14 feeder schools for research and implementing the proposal.

Northwest's feeder schools, which are where Northwest gets a large percentage of its students, are on board with the proposal.

In terms of funding, Hubbard is looking at other foundations and corporations to help pick up some of the funding for the project.

Hubbard plans to ask for three years of funding and

if everything is on track after that time, he will ask for another two or three years.

For some of the funding Hubbard said he is hoping the state would be able to provide some, but the majority of the funding would come from a firm.

Faculty development, data gathering and analysis are some of the areas Hubbard is hoping that the state might be able to fund.

Ruhl said they plan to have a budget ready in four to five weeks to present the proposal and budget to the Kauffman Foundation.

Cohen said there has been a real problem with people presenting research and not making the changes brought up when given input and following through with the research but said that is not the case with the "Building Bridges" proposal.

"Hubbard, Miller and Ruhl are really committed," Cohen said.

CAMPUSBRIEFS

Symposium deadline approaching

The Celebration of Quality Symposium is an all-day conference for undergraduate and graduate students to show case their work. Students in the past have presented creative pieces, such as original research or analytical papers, speeches, conducted panel discussions, works of art, visual summaries of projects in science, business, and education, dramatic readings and play or analyze music.

Deadline for applications is Friday, Feb. 23. For more information about applications contact Tom Spencer at 562-1294 or at tpspen@nwmissouri.edu.

Hinder tickets on sale soon

Tickets for Hinder will go on sale the week of Feb. 12. There will be a three-day pre-sale for students the same week. Students must have their Boarder I.D. to purchase the tickets and can only purchase one ticket per Boarder I.D. Tickets will be \$15 for students and \$20 for the general public. Children must be at least 10-years-old to attend the concert. Tickets can be purchased at the Student Services Desk in the Administration Building.

University collecting donations for fire survivors

Anyone wanting to make donations for the eight Northwest students and an ARAMARK employee who survived the fire can find donation canisters at Cashiering, Human Resources, the Student Service Desk, Station Front Desk, Java City and the Intercultural and International Office. To arrange a gift or receive a cash receipt for a donation, contact Amy Nally in the Volunteer Office at 562-1954 or nally@nwmissouri.edu.

Delta Sigma Theta hosts 4th Annual Pageant

The 4th Annual Crispin and Creme Scholarship Pageant Mr. and Ms. Devastating Couture will be at 7 p.m. Friday, in the Charles Johnson Theater. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$8 or for \$6 from a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. A party will be held in the Station following the pageant for the audience. Admission is \$2 with purchase of pageant ticket and \$5 regularly.

Junior High Science Olympiad comes to campus

Students from 12 area middle schools will visit Northwest Saturday for the Missouri Region I Junior High Science Olympiad. Contests will take place in the Garrett-Strong Science Building and the Horace Mann Laboratory School gymnasium.

An award ceremony will follow in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom. The top four teams will go to the state Science Olympiad in Columbia sometime in April. For more information, contact Gretchen Thornsberry at 562-1215.

Senate hosts blood drive

A blood drive, sponsored by Student Senate, will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Station West Conference Center. Donors will receive a T-shirt. To make an appointment go to Esavealifenow.org.

Group aids storm victims



SIX NORTHWEST employees traveled to Richland, Mo., to help the area recover after a massive ice storm. The crew worked with 14 other volunteers from Tennessee.

By Andrea James
Chief Reporter

After spending six days cleaning trees and power lines off roads, Northwest employees learned a lesson on how to prepare for a natural disaster.

Six Northwest employees volunteered their time to help Richland, Mo., clear debris caused by a winter storm.

The crew went down Jan. 18 through Jan. 23. They worked 10 hours per day, though there was still a lot of work still left, Green said.

"We may have cleared a block-and-half. If you work that much you would think you would be done. There was still a lot of stuff to clear when we left," Green said.

Freshman Emily Abdelmalek attended the event for extra credit and said her favorite part was the excerpts from the "Letter from the Birmingham Jail" skit.

Pat Cummins, Mayor Pro Tem of Maryville, declared February Black Achievement Month at Northwest.

In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, students who originally volunteered to do community service on the holiday but couldn't due to bad weather cleaned four different sites Jan. 27.

Amy Nally, volunteer programs and service learning coordinator, said 30 students were sent to the four locations, which were the Maryville Community Center, Horace Mann, the Nodaway County Historical Society and Museum and Head Start.

Lambert said by having the tribute on a different day other than the holiday people were able to reflect on King Jr.'s legacy.

"His legacy is not limited to one day," Lambert said. "We don't have freedom on one day."

Green and others from Northwest worked with a crew from Missouri Western, he said. The crew from Missouri Western worked down the street and use a chainsaw on the objects that were too big to lift. Then the Northwest crew would follow up and move everything to the side to be picked up by the machinery.

"It was a good team effort. It just made things go a lot smoother," Green said.

The crew from Northwest also worked with 14 others from Tennessee.

"The men we worked with were very skilled with what they did," Green said.

Green said they learned a lot from this experience by better preparing them for a disaster.

Some of the things they learned include shaving trees so the branches are away from power lines or having emergency generators.

Northwest now has emergency generators on campus just in case there is a blackout in Maryville, Green said. It will only take 30 minutes to an hour to turn the lights back on.

"When you have a storm like this everything shuts down. Now we are going to have backups in place," Green said.

Laclede County is still recovering from the winter storm that hit Jan. 12 and 13, Emergency Management Director Jonathan Ayres said.

Crews from all over the state helped remove ice from over 700 miles of the county, he said. Laclede County had to rebuild power grids and there are still people who do not have power.

An estimated 3 inches of ice accumulated on power lines and trees during this winter storm, Ayres said. The trees and power lines in the county couldn't withstand the weight of the ice.

"Trees and power lines covered the roads. We had to remove them so the emergency services could get in," Ayres said.

The University of Missouri, Americorps, chainsaw crews and the National Guard were a few of the state resources that helped clear the ice.

"The crews were a tremendous help to the county and we appreciate the help," Ayres said.

Proposed learning center to assist teachers, faculty

By Dominic Genetti
Senior Reporter

By next fall there will be a new center on campus to help teachers.

According to its mission statement, the Northwest Teaching, Learning and Technology Center will explore, promote and support effective teaching and learning.

For now the project is in its planning stages.

"It's a work in progress," CITE Director Roger Von Holzen said. "Right now we're doing a survey of faculty."

Research and technology resources for teachers are the main goals in the success for the new center.

"They have a heavy load with what they're doing," Assistant CITE Director Darla Runyon said. "Think of all the students they work with."

Results are still being tallied as faculty surveys are returned. Runyon said questions consisted on improvement of current resources.

If things go according to plan, the completion of the development of the Teaching, Learning and Technology Center could be up and running by next fall.

"We'll have it pretty much settled by the spring and it'll take a little time to get it up and running," Von Holzen said.

The center will be divided into four different areas; teaching,

research and the scholarship of teaching, student support and personal enrichment.

"I think what it will bring to the table for faculty will be a more organized source where they can find things without having to go out and look for themselves," Runyon said.

While the benefit for the new Teaching, Learning and Technology Center is mainly for teachers, Von Holzen said it will help students as well.

"It's to benefit faculty directly, but obviously when you're dealing with a teaching, learning and technology center, it will definitely have a benefit to students," Von Holzen said.

Streetscape plans move forward

By Dominic Genetti
Senior Reporter

In downtown Maryville, streetlights glow dim, and squares can be heard as northwest Missouri winds blow stop lights hanging from cords and wires.

After months of planning and organizing, the proposed downtown revitalization project is progressing toward reality.

Final approvals have been made by the Missouri Department of Transportation, and the city is awaiting bids from contractors, said City Manager Mike Rietz.

Contractors have until Feb. 23 to make a bid, and the city is bidding out the entire project.

Improvements include the sidewalks, curbing and a more decorative look. Major renovations are planned for the Nodaway County Courthouse lawn Rietz said.

"We'll have new benches and new street lights and trash receptacles to give it a more period look," Rietz said.

Businesses on the square in downtown Maryville can get involved in the revitalization project with the help of a fund.

"Part of the fund raising for this project created a fund of about \$125,000 for facade improvements," Rietz said. "It's what they call a revolving loan program."

The money can be used by business and building owners downtown to update and make repairs on the exterior of their buildings Rietz said.

"This particular program is

not just for the square downtown or commercial areas, it's actually a countywide program," Rietz said.

While the opportunity is available for business owners to get involved with the downtown revitalization project, one owner in particular is not intrigued.

Charlie Bowen, 58, owns Looks Fitness Salon and Day Spa on Main Street. Despite the city's plans for downtown, he does not plan to make any improvements to coincide with the project.

"I don't know if anybody's actually going to do it," Bowen said.

Bowen said he has been consulted by project committee members to install a smaller awning in front of his business.

"They want to put out lamp posts," Bowen said. "I have the choice if I want to do it or not, and I'm not going to do it. I don't want any trees. We had that a couple years ago, and we had bird crap all over the sidewalk and street."

Nonetheless, Rietz said spring is the projected start time for construction to begin.

"We're hoping to have things started by May," Rietz said. "The first phase of the project would be to get the courthouse square portion of the streetscape design."

Sidewalks bordering the courthouse area are included with the phase one plans along with the intersections of Third and Market Streets and Fourth and Market Streets.

"We anticipate that being done this year," Rietz said.

SEARCHING IN VAIN?



A MARYVILLE firefighter checks inside the destroyed Carson Apartments in hopes of finding the body of one of the victims of the fire.

Influenza strikes students

By Jared Bailey
Missourian Reporter

The Nodaway County Health Department received 50 reports of people testing positive for the flu virus during the week of Jan. 21 while the week prior they only received two.

All the reports come from doctors' offices and emergency rooms in the area. In many cases, those who are sick have been in the age group of 5 to 14-years old.

Throughout the same week about 40-60 students were absent from Maryville Middle School, said principal Kevin Pitts. St. Gregory Barbarigo School had 10 percent of its students absent on Jan. 24 and 25, said to secretary Janet Scheffe.

"For us it seems a little worse than last year," said Susan Martin, principal of St. Gregory Barbarigo School.

Some other schools have not been hit as hard. Attendance is only down by 5.5% from the average at Eugene Field Elementary.

"We make every effort to keep our build-

ing clean and sanitized," said Steve Klotz, principal of Eugene Field Elementary. "We also have hand sanitizers in our hallways and classrooms as well as teaching our students how to properly wash hands, use Kleenex and other important sanitary skills."

Immunizations for the flu virus are available at the Nodaway County Health Department.

Though they are not guaranteed to stop anyone from becoming sick with the flu, they can lessen the intensity of the symptoms.

The worst of such symptoms include headaches and high fever. Besides going to get an immunization, County Health nurse Kathy Lipiec has suggestions for what people can do at home.

"Protect yourself with healthy habits," Lipiec said. "Rest, get plenty of fluids and good nutrition, and if you get sick, isolate yourself till you get better."

The Department is located at 515 N. Main St. and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

8th grade student wins spelling bee

By Andrea James
Chief Reporter

Crescendo. C-r-e-s-c-e-n-d-o. Crescendo.

The end of this word is just the beginning for 13-year-old Danny Steiner.

This eighth-grade student from Maryville Middle School likes to play musical instruments, work with computers and compete in local spelling and geography bees.

He is currently the champion at the local spelling bee and hopes to do well in the county spelling bee in Ravenwood next month, Steiner said.

"He is pretty motivated. He does most of the studying by himself," his father Michael Steiner said.

Danny studies for the spelling bee by reading a book that contains all the words that will be used in the first couple of rounds. People who sponsor the spelling bee put out this book.

"It has the etymologies and definitions, and I like to read a lot," Danny said.

During the spelling bee, 16 chairs

are lined up on a stage along with a microphone and a podium, he said. They call each participant up to the microphone and are given a word to spell.

"You miss it, and you're out," Danny said.

At last year's spelling bee, Danny took second place. He then won the county spelling bee and earned third place in the regional spelling bee.

Danny started his competitive academic trend in fourth grade when he entered himself into a math competition. He has been to state individually three times for math and once as a team, he said.

He continued his academic extracurricular activities with the National Geographic Bee, Michael said. Danny has gone to the state finals for the geography bee for the past three years. He won the local geography bee again this year so he had to take a qualifying test. If Danny scores in the top 100 in the state he will go to the state finals. Danny and his family will find out if he made it in March.

The contest attempts to encourage teachers to teach geography, cre-



MULTIPLE STUDENTS participated in a spelling bee recently. Danny Steiner (top row, fourth from the left) won the event with the word "crescendo".

ate student's interest in geography and the world around them and increase public awareness, according to National Geographic.com/geographybee. It is for students in grades four through eight and is sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

Danny studies for this competition by paying attention in social

studies class, looking at maps and reading the National Geographic. He said the creators of the geography bee sometimes take a lot of the questions straight from the magazine.

"The first 30 questions are relatively easy, and as it goes on, they get progressively harder. Some of them nobody can answer," Danny said.

COMMUNITYBRIEFS

Briley Hull benefit to help family afford heart transplant

The Briley Hull benefit will be held Feb. 10 to raise money to aid the Hull family with medical and non-medical expenses stemming from the illness of their daughter whose birthday will be that same day.

The benefit is being held while Hull waits for a heart transplant.

Hull has been diagnosed with hyperplastic left heart syndrome, which has required five surgeries so far.

The benefit, which is a chili and soup supper, will take place at West Nodaway High School in Burlington Junction from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Northwest Missourians to visit capitol in February

The Great Northwest Missouri Day at the capitol will be held Feb. 6-7.

The event will be a chance for citizens and officials of northwest Missouri to voice their opinions and concerns to members of the state government. City Manager Mike Rietz said.

The day is a chance for people from northwest Missouri communities to share information with others. Rietz said there will be information booths and meetings where topics such as transportation and funding will be discussed.

The event will include many different counties from northwest Missouri.

For more information contact the Maryville Chamber of Commerce.

Property value assessment of Nodaway County begins

A property reassessment of Nodaway County has begun.

Rex Wallace, Nodaway County assessor, has been assessing the property of Nodaway County since February, 2006, and since this is an odd-numbered year, will report to the state of Missouri about whether the property values have fallen or risen.

Unfortunately for taxpayers, Wallace said, property values have risen. This means, unless levies are lowered, taxes for the people of Nodaway County will increase.

Decisions on whether or not levies will be lowered won't be made until September, but Wallace isn't optimistic and anticipates a raise in taxes for Nodaway County citizens.

Wallace has assessed the value of Nodaway County at roughly \$254 million, but his individual property assessments won't be out until May.

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The NWMISSOURIAN is compiling a list of the longest married couples in Maryville and surrounding areas.

Send stories to:

NWMISSOURIAN

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Deadline: Monday, February 5, 2007

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i'm lovin' it

—COLUMN

Lessons emerge from local fire

Repetition often proves the best medicine. But how many times does something have to happen before the lesson is learned?



Stephanie Stangl
Editor-in-Chief

Two lives were ripped away Saturday because of a fire that could have been prevented and many are minus all of their possessions that rental insurance could have helped replace.

In a way, a similar fire occurring March 5, 2006, foreshadowed the events Saturday—an eerie prophecy to what would happen only 10 months later.

Northwest student Keith Holden stepped out for a minute with grease cooking on his stove last spring, returning to an apartment ablaze and adjacent apartments also partly or totally damaged.

In this instance no one was hurt, let alone killed. Immediately, the Northwest Missourian ran an article on the importance of rental insurance. You may not be able to control the actions and carelessness of others but you can make sure you are protected if something happens.

On Saturday, grease was also left on while the person passed out in the next room. Carelessness caused a similar situation, with more tragic results.

Upon signing the policy, rental insurance will protect you against normal perils such as fire, wind, theft and explosion. For \$12 a month, students can insure their apartments and even include a stipulation for liability.

However, most students don't give this insurance a second thought.

—COMMENTS FROM NWMISSOURIANNEWS.COM

Editor's note: Here are some of the comments received online. To comment on future articles, visit our Web site at nwmissourianews.com.

In response to "Deadly fire destroys apartment complex," 1.27.07

Deanna Qaoud posted: 1/29/07

Mr. Wood, it would be nice if you had much more taste in the way you make your comments, especially to the public. "This might have been much worse." What, is two lives gone and my brother in the hospital not acceptable to you? That was a very heartless to say. A lot of us are going through a great ordeal right now. I would suggest in the future choosing your words more wisely. Thanks to everyone for the prayers, we will need them for the long road ahead.

Keith Wood posted: 1/29/07

My apologies if my comments are taken out of context. Please be assured that I, as much as anybody, feel this loss as a community member. With that said, I cannot begin to understand the loss and experience of losing a family member and/or dear friend in this terrible fashion. What I meant, and please don't minimize this, is that we could have had greater loss of life and injury that what we did, not that what we experienced was in any way acceptable. I hope this

assuming something so devastating will ever happen to them.

"A college student would rather spend 12 bucks on a pizza than have rental insurance," said Paul Drake, American Family Insurance agent.

Now former tenants of Carson Apartments are left with virtually nothing except the clothes on their backs.

The Midland Empire Chapter of the American Red Cross in St. Joseph scrambles to find them makeshift shelter and provide them with the basic necessities, but with just a \$12 investment each month, each one of them would have an easier and less financially burdening time of replacing their belongings.

If the lesson of responsibility had sunk in with everyone last March, maybe Brandon Kaut and Derrick Schaefer would still be alive. And if the importance of rental insurance had been taken from the article we ran, those who lived to be devastated would maybe be much less.

I knew Brandon as an artist and a friend. We met on the "Smoker's Bench" outside of Dietrich Hall on campus my freshman year. While I teased up reading the comments everyone left for him on Facebook, com and cried at the injustice of it all, I will not claim to have known him well. I didn't know Derrick at all.

But for the many close friends and family members each one of them had, Saturday will forever be etched in their minds.

Maybe this time the lessons will be etched in ours so the third time doesn't have to be the charm.

My name is Cindy White, the mother of Brandon Kaut. I would love for the families of Derrick Schaefer and the young man who was seriously injured to please contact me to share support each at this devastating time. myname-to-3boys@hotmail.com. Please, Brandon would want it this way. He says to rest tonight leaving many, many memories. You all need hugs, too, please contact me.

Cindy White posted: 1/30/07

My name is Sue Bosse and my son Ryan Bosse had lived in Apt. No. 5 on the first floor in the Carson Apartments for the past four years, but just moved to Kansas City only three months ago to start a new job. Ryan was a team leader at Kawasaki and knew Brandon and Derrick from both work and as friends. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families as well as all the other residents who lost everything. It was such a shock and is such a tragedy that I can't even imagine what all the families are going through. We all need to voice our concerns to state, county and local building departments to implement stricter fire codes in rental properties.

Sue Bosse posted: 1/30/07

My name is Sue Bosse and my son Ryan Bosse had lived in Apt. No. 5 on the first floor in the Carson Apartments for the past four years, but just moved to Kansas City only three months ago to start a new job. Ryan was a team leader at Kawasaki and knew Brandon and Derrick from both work and as friends. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families as well as all the other residents who lost everything. It was such a shock and is such a tragedy that I can't even imagine what all the families are going through. We all need to voice our concerns to state, county and local building departments to implement stricter fire codes in rental properties.

STUDY: AMERICANS SPEND MORE TIME WITH COMPUTER THAN WITH SPOUSE



—COLUMN

Give me someone who can win

When Hillary Clinton announced her intention to run for president in 2008, I did not exactly perform a Tiger Woods-style fist pump or alert cries of the momentous event.



Sam Robinson
Chief Reporter

Why not? Because if the early predictions are correct and she wins the Democratic Party's nomination, it could mark the beginning of a crushing event next fall signaling four more years of inadequacy in the oval office.

Perhaps I need to clarify myself. I am a super liberal. I stand to the far left on nearly all major issues like gun control, abortion and military spending. In saying those things, I think Hillary Clinton would make a great president. She is a strong proponent of education spending and stricter gun control laws. She is very intelligent and the closest link

to Bill Clinton, the man at the helm for eight years of peace and economic prosperity this country has not witnessed since. The problem is, I don't think Clinton can win. She is seen as robotic and not enduring enough, especially in comparison to prime competitor Barack Obama, a man who oozes charisma. She has spent so much time on the country's biggest stage, that the opposition

will not have a hard time finding flaws to exploit.

While very early, the overall numbers for Clinton are overwhelmingly favorable. Nearly every national poll has her holding a double-digit percentage lead over her nearest democratic competitor. On the surface, she leads senators Obama and John Edwards, but for nearly every voter who likes her, there is a voter who does not.

In a Washington Post poll taken this month, she leads all candidates with 54 percent of the people surveyed having a favorable opinion of her, while 44 percent do not. The unfavorable opinion is also by far the highest of the prospective candidates. A similar poll had Clinton's unfavorable opinions at 48 percent, which is astounding for a first-time candidate. Rasmussen.com projects her falling in a presidential race against Sen. John McCain and former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani next fall, while Edwards and Obama are projected to defeat McCain.

With such a crucial election where power balance and the Iraq war hinge on the outcome, it would be extremely unwise to nominate such a divisive figure. Whomever the Democrats nominate they must go against McCain or Giuliani, who each will be a formidable opponent. McCain is the front-runner, while Giuliani is revered by New Yorkers and numerous Americans for his leadership after Sept. 11. Clinton is

viewed as intellectual but nowhere near the leader Giuliani is. If the Republicans do one thing, well, it's swaying public opinion. They are shrewd manipulators and know what people want to hear. If they could get Bush re-elected on the coattails of gay marriage, they will surely paint an unflattering picture of Clinton, whose war policy is not exactly stable. This is no time to take risks. A woman will be president someday, but not now. They need the moderates' support more than ever and cannot nominate someone who many fringe voters already don't like. Democrats are in a rare position of power and handing the keys to an unstable candidate would be an epic mistake. They need to nominate someone like Edwards who can charm the people, get elected and attempt to undo the atrocities the Bush White House created. However, if Clinton does win the presidency, she will have definitely earned it and I will gladly eat all of these words.

—COLUMN

Editor urges women to get HPV vaccine

It felt uncomfortable to cry at her funeral with all eyes on me. Everyone told me I was a spitting image of her when she was young.



Tara Adkins
Features Editor

If only prevention would have been possible at her stage. It takes the lives of 3,900 American women each year, and in 1998, my grandma was also its victim.

Cervical cancer is curable and preventable, yet many times overlooked. It is a slowly developed cancer caused by abnormal cell changes in the lining of the cervix.

To know cervical cancer can be trouble-free with treatment in early

detection, women absolutely have to get that yearly visit to the doctor for prevention.

Looking at the life lessons poster plastered to the ceiling during the longest 30 seconds of your life is nothing women look forward to.

Sure the doctor who stiffly tells you to just relax while poking and prodding in uncomfortable places is dreaded,

but having blood in your urine and pain shooting throughout your lower body because of pressure from a tumor makes the annual visit worth it. It beats the hair loss, vomiting, diarrhea and bruised sores left on the body after chemotherapy

treatment. My grandma avoided preventative measures. She, like many of us, loathed those awkward visits and just happened to forget to book that appointment. Unfortunately, when she realized her body was telling her something was wrong, it was too late.

Cervical cancer can be detected easily through regular cervical screenings and avoidance of the Human Papillomavirus, the virus that causes most cervical cancer cases. However, since 4.6 million people ages 15 to 24 get HPV, avoidance is difficult, according to the American Social Health Association. Luckily, the new vaccine, Gardasil, prevents the exposure to the strains of HPV that cause cervical cancer.

You've seen the commercials. Young girls and their mothers hold-

ing hands with sincerity pasted all over their faces. Through braiding each other's hair and painting "one less" on the sides of buildings, they hope you tell someone about the vaccine. By spreading the word, they just might make you a member of their HPV-free club like it's a Tuesday afternoon tea party. However, the message is real and critical to women's health.

Although the vaccine is costly and just now beginning to be covered by common insurance companies, I plan to schedule my appointment for Gardasil as soon as possible.

With January and the Cervical Health Awareness Month behind us, I hope to be one less statistic. I make the commitment to prevent in honor of my grandma.

Take the advice and tell someone.

RELIC: Demolished building becomes makeshift memorial to honor victim's lives taken in fire

continued from A1

Both men had lived in Maryville for several years, working at the Kawasaki plant. Kaut was a former Northwest student. Funeral services for Schafer and Kaut were held earlier this week.

Northwest sophomore Abe Qaoud, 20, of Florissant, Mo., a wide receiver for the Bearcat football team, suffered third degree burns, a fractured eye socket and ribs, a bruised lung and a separated shoulder when he fell from one of the building's third story windows, said Qaoud's brother, David.

Abe is undergoing treatment at the University of Kansas Medical Center. A hospital spokesman said he was in fair condition as of press time.

The blaze also displaced all of the surviving tenants in 14 of Carson's 15 units, a combination of Northwest students and non-students. All have found temporary housing at other apartment buildings or with family and friends, according to the Maryville Public Safety Department.

Dozens of tenants in apartment build-

ings surrounding Carson Apartments were evacuated temporarily, due to heavy smoke.

The fire began in Northwest student Alfred Maina's second floor apartment, said Keith Wood, public safety director. Maina was cooking french fries on his stove when he fell asleep. He woke shortly after 4 a.m. to an uncontrollable grease fire, which was already spreading across the floor.

When grease combusts, Wood said, the results are similar to petroleum. In this case, the fire had a large fuel supply.

"Grease is a liquid that runs, and if it's on fire it rapidly spreads with its own fuel," he said.

Northwest senior Nick Christensen and junior Abby Scheib were playing Trivial Pursuit at a friend's apartment across the hall when Maina banged on their door. Christensen rushed over to Maina's apartment with water, only to find a blaze that was beyond containment.

"I first walked into the room...I didn't have any shoes on, and my socks started, like, melting to the carpet," Christensen

said. Christensen, Scheib and the rest of their group split up, going door-to-door, waking and alerting residents of the danger.

"We were probably the only ones that were awake in the entire apartment, so when he knocked on our door we all just kind of scattered and went all over the place trying to get people out," Christensen said.

Scheib said she is still in disbelief over the sequence of events that night.

"I mean, there just happened to be six people there that were awake at that time," she said. "We were just really lucky."

By the time he decided to evacuate himself, Christensen said the smoke was so thick that he was forced to crawl to the staircase. His eyes burning, he "fell down the stairs and just kinda rolled out the door."

The residents, most of who were in their pajamas, were moved to the nearby First United Methodist Church to get out of the cold, Christensen said.

First responders arrived at the building around 4:30 a.m., where they found

heavy smoke, large flames and a number of residents trying to escape through third floor windows.

Firefighters entered the complex, but also evacuated shortly thereafter, after the fire became too intense and the building's floors became too unstable. Two residents had to be rescued by ladder, and when the Carson roofed caved in, the other floors collapsed onto each other.

The fire rekindled several times during the day Saturday, and into the night. On Sunday, Maryville Public Safety ordered what was left of the complex to be immediately demolished. This was the only way to prevent any further rekindling, Wood said.

As for Maina, Wood said that after several interviews, he has not been legally connected with the fire, as of press time. However, the investigation is ongoing.

"We cannot attribute this to anything more than a terribly disastrous accident," Wood said.

Part of the blame rests with the construction of the building, Wood said. Built in the 1920s, the interior structure was

primarily wooden and therefore easily susceptible to fires.

However, Wood said the structure did not violate any safety codes, was not unsafe to live in and had gotten no complaints from residents regarding living conditions. Carson Apartments was simply not built to today's safety standards, "and wasn't expected to be."

After a certain age, buildings do not have to be updated to meet current safety standards. The apartment complex had not been updated since the early '60s, when it was remodeled from a Catholic school to a place of residence.

However, the building received a fire safety upgrade in December, when it was given new smoke detectors, emergency lights and fire extinguishers, Wood said.

Christensen's cell phone burned up in the blaze, and Scheib lost her purse, which contained money and credit cards. However, both said they wouldn't soon lose the image of the destruction of Carson Apartments.

"It looked like something out of a movie," Scheib said.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Jan. 15

■ Luke Edick, 25, Barnard, Mo., arrested on St. Joseph warrant for failure to appear

Jan. 16

■ Michael Kissler, 27, Panama City, Fla., arrested on Nowaday County warrant for failure to appear

Jan. 22

■ Identity Theft, Clearmont, Mo., residence

Jan. 21

■ An unknown driver collided with a vehicle owned by Michele K. Marchesi, 19, Maryville, at W. Fourth and N. Walnut

Jan. 20

■ An unknown driver collided with a vehicle owned by Brian A. Swink, Maryville, in the 100 block W. First

Jan. 21

■ Robert D. Pope, 71, Maryville, collided with a vehicle owned by Terry L. Weather, St. Joseph, in the 600 block N. Main

Jan. 21

■ Jesse and Erica Murphy, Maryville, are the parents of Liam James Murphy born Jan. 12 at St. Francis

Jan. 23

■ Cassidy P. Bredensteiner, 19, Maryville, and Nicholas J. Hager, 19, Maryville, collided at N. Mulberry and W. Seventh

Jan. 22

■ James C. Relihan, 20, Rochester, Ill., failure to appear, 400 block N. Market

Jan. 23

■ Christine M. Makings, 21, Maryville, failure to appear, 700 block N. Buchanan

Jan. 22

■ Fraud, ongoing investigation, 1600 block S. Main

Jan. 22

■ Forgery, ongoing investigation, 1600 block S. Main

Jan. 25

■ Mose O. Howard, 21, Maryville, larceny/theft, 1600 block S. Main

Jan. 26

■ Ashley R. Abernethy, 20, Maryville, DWI, exceeding posted speed limit, driving while suspended

Matthew T. Hamilton, 19, Ridge-way, Mo., resisting or interfering with arrest, MIP, failure to comply

Jan. 27

■ Eran H. Everhart, 22, Maryville, DWI, driving while revoked, careless and imprudent driving, property damage

Jan. 22

■ Violation of protection order, ongoing investigation, 600 E. First

Jan. 21

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■ Ashley R. Abernethy, 20, Maryville, DWI, exceeding posted speed limit, driving while suspended

Heather Dawn Vansickle
Allen and Cindy Vansickle,
Maryville, are the parents of Heather

Dawn Vansickle, born Jan. 9, 2007 at St. Francis Hospital.

Heather weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and joins one sibling, Caitlin.

Jan. 16

■ Grandparents are Larry and Barb Linville, West Plains, Mo., Sandra and Bill Hill, Maryville, Jim and Nancy Vansickle, Lane, Kan., and Karen and Larry Farrens, Maryville.

Great-grandparents are Marjorie Linville, Maryville, Lucille Vansickle, Clearmont, Mo., and Frieda Tunell, Maryville.

Jan. 16

■ Donna Joslin and Alan Wiederholt, Maryville, are the parents of Jenna Nicole Wiederholt born Jan. 9, 2007 at St. Francis Hospital.

Jenna weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces, and joins one brother, Trent Michael.

Grandparents are Russell and Elizabeth Joslin, Maryville, and Alan and Ronda Wiederholt, Clyde, Mo.

Great-grandparents are Larnel and the late Virgil Joslin, Maryville, and Teresa and the late Gene Wiederholt, Stanberry, Mo.

Jan. 16

■ Jesse and Erica Murphy, Maryville, are the parents of Liam James Murphy born Jan. 12 at St. Francis

Liam weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces.

Grandparents are Mark and Anita Dickey, Overland Park, Kan., Jim Murphy, Fairfax, Mo., and Leslie and Dave Bremer, Rock Port, Mo.

Great-grandparents are Edward Dale and Esther Jean Wiley, Maryville, Shirley and Lou Dickey, Urbandale, Iowa, Janice Burke, Rock Port, Jane and Elden Buesing, Maryville, and

Jan. 25

■ Brandy N. McClurg, 22, Maryville, and Joshua D. Vinzant, 33, Maryville, collided at First and Buchanan.

McClurg was cited with careless and imprudent driving.

Jan. 25

■ Dorothy I. Sleep, 68, Bedford, Iowa, and Larry G. Rusco, 67, Maryville, at Main and South Avenue. Sleep was cited for careless and imprudent driving.

Jan. 25

■ Heather Dawn Vansickle
Allen and Cindy Vansickle,
Maryville, are the parents of Heather

Les and Joann Murphy, Aurora, Mo.

Jan. 16

■ Blake and Kerri Taylor, Maryville, are the parents of Zoe Christine Taylor born Jan. 16, 2007.

Zoe weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces.

Grandparents are Jack and Peggy Purdy, Maryville, Steve Taylor, Mound City, Mo., and Sherri Taylor, Maryville.

Great-grandparents are Ronald and Beverly Seegers, Osceola, Iowa, Ronald Purdy, Greenfield, Iowa, and Mike and Veevee, Farmington, Mo.

Jan. 16

■ Craig and Jessica Sportsman, Barnard, Mo., are the parents of Rowdy Allen Sportsman born Jan. 17, 2007 at St. Francis Hospital.

Rowdy weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and joins one sister, Rylie Sportsman.

Grandparents are Joe and Mary Ross, Grant City, Mo., and Stan and Cathy Sportsman, Graham, Mo.

Great-grandparents are Edith Wolnik, Grant City, Mo., Jean Sportsman, Graham, and James Zibeg, Graham.

Jan. 16

SCENES OF THE AFTERMATH

(right) A FIREFIGHTER WORKS the extendable ladder during Saturday morning to pour water through the roof of the building in order to attempt to contain the blaze. (below) A MARYVILLE FIREFIGHTER surveys the scene of a fire that destroyed Carson Apartments on Saturday morning. Firefighters worked throughout the night extinguishing the flames and recovering the bodies of two victims of the fire.



(above) FIREFIGHTERS COMFORT one another after they pulled the body of an individual out of the second floor of Carson Apartments on Saturday afternoon. (below) FRIENDS OF Brandon Kaut, one of the two victims of the fire, gather at the ruins of Carson Apartments to share their memories of him around 8 p.m. Sunday night.

photos by Mike Day photography editor

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Click to us first for Wednesday night and Saturday afternoon basketball game recaps

Northwest women face Central Missouri State for the second time in two weeks. See B2 for preview

INSIDE
Men's, women's previews, track 'Hounds' basketball, jumps Alternative Spring Break Stroller / The Vibe

B2
B3
B4
B5 / B6

SPORTS

MISSOURIAN
THURSDAY
Feb. 1, 2007
www.nwmissourinews.com

-INJURY UPDATE

Qaoud's injuries not fatal

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

Northwest wide receiver Abe Qaoud continues to recover from injuries sustained in a fire at Carson Apartments, early Saturday morning.

Qaoud, who is being treated at the University of Kansas Medical Center, is listed in fair condition, according to hospital spokesman Dennis Minich.

"If you were to ask him any questions, he would tell you that all the glory goes to God," said David Qaoud, Abe's brother.

David said Abe suffered third-degree burns to his legs, a fractured eye socket, bruised lung, separated shoulder and rib fractures after jumping out of his apartment window to avoid the blaze.

David also said his brother was sick and had taken some NyQuil before bed and was in a deep sleep when he awoke around 3:30 a.m.

A man was coming with a ladder to assist Abe, but he was forced to jump because of the buildup of flames and smoke. After falling on his face, Abe blacked out and didn't wake up until he was in the hospital. Qaoud had grabbed a piece of the ladder before plummeting two stories to the ground.

The family then received a phone call from Northwest coach Mel Tjerdema around 6 a.m. to let the family know what had happened, according to David.

"We're all thankful he is alive and in the recovery stage," Tjerdema said, speaking by phone from El Paso, Texas, where he will participate in the Inaugural Texas vs. The Nation All-Star Challenge on Friday. After learning that Qaoud's injuries were not life-threatening, Tjerdema boarded a plane for Texas.

Qaoud said his brother has received a lot of visits from members

see QAUD on B3

Howard arrested for theft

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

Northwest point guard Mose Howard faces one count of stealing after allegedly taking money out of a wallet left by a customer at a Wal-Mart.

The shopper, K.C. Collins, left his wallet on a register after purchasing items on Jan. 21. After Collins called Maryville Public Safety to report the missing cash, a review of surveillance cameras showed Howard allegedly lifting the cash out of the wallet.

"I still feel like he's a good person. I'm disappointed he didn't make a better decision," Northwest coach Steve Tappmeyer said.

Northwest Athletic Director Bob Boeriger, unaware of the arrest, declined to comment.

Howard is sitting out the season after tearing his ACL in last April. Last season, Howard averaged 13.5 points per game, leading the Bearcats to the Sweet 16.

-NW FEATURE

The Henry Effect



FRATERNAL TWINS Hannah and Hunter Henry share accolades as collegiate athletes. As sophomores, Hannah is a record-holding runner on the track and field team, while Hunter is helping lead the No. 16 Bearcats basketball team this season.

-BYTHE NUMBERS

4
Number of times Hannah broke the 60-meter hurdle record this season

9.22
Seconds—Hannah's current fastest time in the 60-meter hurdles

2
All-MIAA honors, outdoor 100-meter hurdles and 400-meter hurdles

The Henry twins continue to rewrite record books in their sophomore seasons at Northwest

By Jared Verner
Missourian Reporter

An athlete wanting to compete at the collegiate level never wants to start the career still recovering from high school injuries.

Hannah Henry, a hurdler for the Northwest women's track and field team, found herself in that same situation in 2004. The sophomore from Lenexa, Kan., underwent knee surgery during her senior year of high school and was still recovering by the start of team practices.

"Her freshman year was rough from a physical standpoint," said head coach Scott Lorek. "One of the things that we did — we changed her lead leg."

Henry had been using the same leg to compete in the hurdles since beginning to run in summer meets 12 years earlier. In her redshirt season of 2005, she ran a season-best 16.41 seconds in the 100-meter hurdles.

"Freshman year was really bad because I was just getting adjusting to it," Henry said. "It was just a really big change. I had started when I was 6 or 7 and I got to college and your coach says 'You need to switch legs,' and you're like 'What? I've been doing this for so long. Freshman year was a struggle.'"

Lorek said that to change a lead leg is "tough, not only physically, but mentally as well. That's a significant thing."

But a year later, Henry cut it down to 14.94 seconds and placed fourth in the event at MIAA Outdoor Championships. She also took fifth in the 400-meter hurdles at the same meet. The top six in each event earn All-MIAA honors.

"Hannah has just taken to the college scene and

college athletics has just really excelled, and that I think that speaks well of her inner confidence," Lorek said. "She's tackled some difficult things and come through great."

And for 2007, Henry began putting her name in the Northwest record books.

She's broken the indoor 60-meter hurdle record four times this season, lowering it to 9.22 seconds at the Bill Hillenbrand Invitational last weekend.

"I know I have a record, but I don't really think about it," Henry said. "We have such great hurdlers. Everyone's getting better and their times have gone down every weekend. Next week someone else could have it, so that's the fun thing about it. It's there for the taking no matter, and everyone's just getting better."

Henry said the change in the lead leg "worked out for the best, obviously. Good decision on coach Lorek's part. He knows best."

"She is one of those athletes you wish you could clone," Lorek said.

Twin Combo While cloning may not be the best option, Hannah's fraternal twin Hunter may be the next best route.

Hunter and Hannah were born on April 1, 1986, the children of Bob and Tracy Henry. Both accumulated awards throughout their high school careers at Shawnee Mission West, with Hunter in basketball and Hannah in track. Both now are continuing their success in their respective sports at Northwest.

It usually takes a while for people to realize they're twins. It took Lorek some time to put the clues together.

see HENRY on B3

-MHS WRESTLING

'Hounds prepare for regular season finale

By Scott Levine
Asst. Sports Editor

The Maryville High School wrestling team crowned one champion at the Quad State Classic in Maryville, Jan. 27. The tournament, featuring 10 teams, was the final tournament before Saturday's regular season tournament finale at Albany.

Maryville coach Joe Drake said the team must continue improving in preparation for districts.

"We're not quite where we want to be right now," Drake said. "We'll see this Saturday how we'll do in the future."

After the Albany tournament, the 'Hounds have a week to prepare for the

district meet in Cameron.

"By this time next week, we will have faced all our district opponents, except for one team," Drake said. "That is really nice for us."

Trenton and Cameron, two teams paired with Maryville in districts, participated in the Quad State Classic. Trenton finished first with 146 points, while Cameron placed sixth with 90 points.

The 'Hounds finished seventh with 84 points. Maryville wrestler Tanner Archer said the team needs to finish as strong as possible.

"We're coming along as a young team,"

see FINALE on B3



MARYVILLE SPOOHOUND wrestler Jacob Zach struggles in agony against Colby Morgan, from Cameron, Mo., during Saturday's Quad State Classic wrestling tournament held at Maryville High School. Zach lost to Morgan in the match.

-MHS BASKETBALL



PLATTE COUNTY sophomore Chey Jordan reads to Maryville junior Jordan Gaddis steals the ball from her on Tuesday night at Maryville High School.

Second half hurts again

By Cali Arnold
Community Sports Editor

Second halves have spelled trouble for the Maryville girls' basketball team.

Down by only six at the half Tuesday night against Platte County, the SpooHounds could not produce offense in the last half of the game. They dropped the contest 48-32 to the Lady Pirates.

"We have to get some other players to get in there and get some more minutes so we can keep our girls fresh," Maryville coach Grant Hageman said.

The Pirates came out of halftime with a quick 12-0 run that led to outscoring the 'Hounds 18-5 in the third quarter. Maryville would make a slight comeback in the final quarter, scoring three more points than the opponent, but it was not enough for a comeback.

Hageman was pleased with his team's defense, especially against Platte County's 6-foot-4 Morgan Johnson. The sophomore still managed to score 18 points in the win.

"Defensively the effort was really good," Hageman said. "We just have to carry that effort to the offensive side and execute for some shots."

Maryville junior Leah Wilmes, who led the 'Hounds with 11 points, said she thought the team's defense could have been a little stronger.

Wilmes agreed with her coach, saying a complete game must come soon for the 'Hounds.

"We have to get over those stretches, we have to play four quarters," Wilmes said. "Not three and a half or just three."

Maryville's Genesee Stoll and Emily Kisker each tallied six points in the loss.

The next girls' game will feature the junior varsity at 5 p.m. Friday, at Smithville, with the varsity to follow.

-NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women hope to even series



NORTHWEST GUARD Meghan Brue makes a jump shot in double coverage against the Southwest Baptist defense in the second half of Saturday evening's game. The Northwest Bearcats beat the Southwest Baptist Bearcats 64-49.

'Cat's face Central Missouri for second time in two weeks

By Cali Arnold
Community Sports Editor

The Northwest women finally got what they've been looking for all month last Saturday.

Now they hope they can start February the same way.

After a convincing win against Southwest Baptist Jan. 27 in Bearcat Arena, the Bearcats are hoping to start a win streak while on their home floor. The win was the first on a weekend in January for the team.

After Wednesday's game against Emporia State (game information not available at press time), the team is looking for a rematch against Central Missouri Saturday. Northwest lost the first contest Jan. 20, 80-69.

Northwest coach Gene Steinmeyer said this time his team has a better idea of what to look for against the Jennies. Seeing what the opponent will do against the 'Cats defensive strategy interests him most, he added.

Senior Katie O'Grady said playing in Maryville this time is a plus for her team.

"Definitely we need some big wins,"

O'Grady said. "So hopefully the home court advantage will help us out."

While the win against Southwest Baptist felt good to Steinmeyer, he said he has no way of knowing if breaking the weekend losing streak will bring his team back around.

"The truthful answer is there's not a soul, not a person on this team and not a coach on this team, that knows," Steinmeyer said. "It's a day-by-day process, and all I know is that I felt better on Sunday morning than I have in a month."

The bright spot for O'Grady is the team's defense as of late. On the season, the 'Cats have allowed 56.6 points per game, while scoring 72.4.

While the win against Baptist was nice, O'Grady admitted the team will take any win it can get at this point in the season. Although Steinmeyer told the team there are no 'moral victories,' she said the team knows they can win the game.

"Recently our communication on defense has been pretty good and I think hopefully it will show," O'Grady said. "Hopefully it will prove to our teammates that we have to communicate and we can work hard on defense and get the win."

Both Central Missouri and Northwest are fighting to stay in the top half of the MIAA standings. The Jennies and 'Cats will tip off at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, in Bearcat Arena.

-NW TRACK

'Cats nab titles at South Dakota

By Scott Levine
Asst. Sports Editor

The Northwest men's and women's track squads garnered seven individual titles Saturday at South Dakota. Four men attained championships, while two women notched first place.

Kailea Cook was the lone Bearcat to win two separate events. Despite trailing during the 60-meter run, Cook came back and finished first.

"(Cook) is doing things technically this year that she wasn't last year," Northwest coach Scott Lorek said. "Coming from behind in a race hasn't happened often either."

Cook also grabbed a victory in the 200-meter run. During that run, Cook entered the final stretch neck-and-neck with a runner and pulled out the win.

Although the Bearcats featured only nine members, four other

women placed in the top three. Lindsay Biermann tallied a first place finish in the high jump. Biermann jumped 17-5 1/4 on her final jump for the victory.

Brandi Honeywell placed third in the long jump, while Hannah Henry added a third place finish in the 60-meter hurdles.

Henry lowered her school record in the prelims with a time of 9:22 as Anna O'Brien finished third in the one-mile run.

"It was a positive for everyone," Lorek said. "It was a good chance to get everyone more training. We learned a lot."

The Northwest men also achieved success in South Dakota. Bayo Adiu, Brandon Schoon, Jeff Kanger and Ike Urum-Eke each placed first in their respective events.

Adiu finished first in the high jump and second in the triple jump, while Urum-Eke provisionally quali-

fied for nationals with a first place finish in the triple jump.

Urum-Eke joins Adiu, Diezas Calbert and Eric Isley as Bearcats provisionally qualified for nationals.

"After Christmas break... we weren't in very good shape," Northwest coach Richard Alsop said. "Then we worked their butts off and they got sore and didn't look good competing."

"The following week we looked a lot better and that will continue," Schoon notched a first place finish in the shot put as Jeff Kanger placed first in the one-mile run. Ben McKim and Khai Berry added second place finishes in the shot put and 60-meter hurdles, respectively.

Sydney Brisbane, Isaac Lopez, Sheldon Cook and Ron Purnell propelled Northwest's 4 x 400 relay to a second place finish. Matt Pohlen finished third in the 3,000-meter run.

"It's just three weeks into the semester, but I feel good about our chances," Alsop said. "We've still got a lot of conditioning left to do, as we should at this time of year."

"The Bearcat men are also ranked No. 4 by D2Rankings.com. Central Missouri, ranked 16th, is the only other MIAA team ranked.

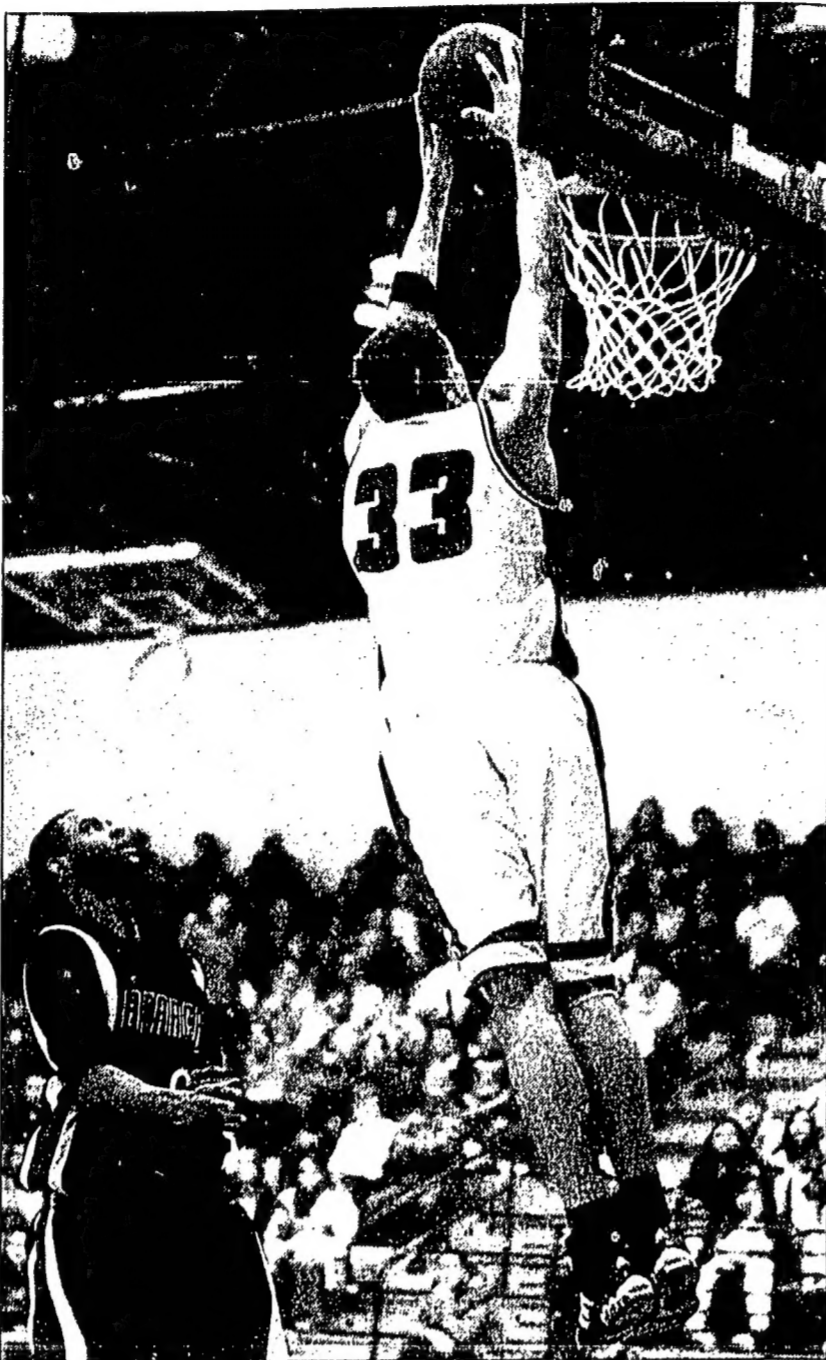
"This ranking doesn't mean we're first in the conference," Alsop said. "There is no ranking, it's just stats."

"Winning races is important to a certain caliber, because the more you win, the better you feel. For the most part, however, improving is what we're trying to do."

Both teams are off this weekend, before traveling to Central Missouri. Lorek said the off week should be good rest for his team.

"This will be a good mental break for us," Lorek said. "We keep improving and we want to be in the thick of things in the conference."

-NW MEN'S BASKETBALL



NORTHWEST GUARD Andy Peterson dunks the ball during the first half of the game against the Southwest Baptist Bearcats on Saturday night held in Bearcat Arena. The Northwest Bearcats beat the Southwest Baptist Bearcats 68-63.

Team plans to get even

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

No. 16 Northwest is on an upswing.

After upsetting then No. 7 Emporia State last Wednesday, Northwest swept the season series against Southwest Baptist in a 68-63 win last Saturday. In the first South Central regional poll, Northwest is ranked No. 8 with the top eight advanced to the tournament.

Northwest will lock horns with No. 2 Central Missouri, Saturday at Bearcat Arena. Northwest fell hard against the Mules, 69-55, on Jan. 20.

"I think in order to beat these good teams, you've got to bring everything together," Tappmeyer said. "We've got to have our A game."

A win against Central would go a long way for a club that's 2-1 against ranked opponents and still in the conference race despite sitting in third place in the MIAA through Wednesday. After Central, Northwest will travel Wednesday to Truman State, which ends the tour of upper tier teams in the conference. The rest of Northwest's schedule is against teams with a combined record of 43-52.

"A win in each of those games would be huge in trying to get us much closer and also seeding for the MIAA tournament," forward Andy Peterson said.

Freshman redshirt Lance Sullivan, the reigning MIAA player of the week, had a big week, averaging 18.5 points. Against Emporia State, Sullivan tied his career high in points with 20 in the win against the Hornets, including five-of-seven from downtown.

"He really shot it well and I thought he really competed against Emporia and made some plays down the line against Southwest Baptist," Tappmeyer said.

Tappmeyer said after Saturday's win against the purple Bearcats that his team "leveled off" after taking an early lead.

Reggie Robinson practiced well on Tuesday. Robinson has been nursing a deep-thigh bruise.

"Today (Tuesday) was the first day where I thought he was close to 100 percent," Tappmeyer said.

Peterson says the "defensive consistency and defensive rebounding will be huge."

"We didn't really play Bearcat defense the whole game," Peterson said, referring to the loss to Central. "We didn't give ourselves a chance to win in that game."

-NABC MEN'S COACHES' POLL

No.	School	Record	No.	School	Record
1.	Winona St.	19-0	14.	Millersville (Pa.)	17-2
2.	Central Missouri	18-0	15.	Humboldt St. (Calif.)	14-3
3.	Bentley (Mass.)	19-0	16.	Northwest	15-4
4.	Minnesota St.	20-1	17.	(tie) Cal Poly Pomona	12-4
5.	Findlay (Ohio)	18-1	17.	(tie) West Liberty St.	16-2
6.	Clayton St. (Ga.)	18-1	19.	California (Pa.)	15-3
7.	Grand Valley St.	18-2	20.	Virginia Union	11-3
8.	Metro St. (Colo.)	17-2	21.	(tie) August St. (Ga.)	16-3
9.	Emporia St.	17-1	21.	(tie) Nebraska-Kearney	15-3
10.	SE Oklahoma St.	16-2	23.	Benedict (S.C.)	15-1
11.	Cal St.-San Bernardino	13-3	24.	Henderson St. (Ark.)	14-5
12.	Southern Indiana	19-3	25.	(tie) Bryant (R.I.)	14-5
13.	Quincy (Ill.)	16-4	25.	(tie) Rollins (Fla.)	17-3

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-COLUMN

Support surfaces through tragedy

It's sad to know that sometimes a tragedy is what it takes to bring people together.

I've seen it twice now since first coming to Maryville in Fall 2005. First, one year ago, it was the fatal house explosion that took the lives of a mother and son, Lois and C. A. R. Hall.



Cali Arnold
Community Sports Editor

Now, one year later, it was an apartment fire, also claiming two lives and severely injuring another. Derrick Schafer and Brandon Kaut died Saturday morning, and Abe Qaoud is at the University of Kansas Medical Center, being treated for severe injuries.

Qaoud, a wide receiver for the Northwest football team, is just one of many people who have changed the world of sports through injury, or for some, death.

It was not the names of the victims from Saturday's fires I heard first, it was the name of the football player who was injured.

I'm sure the Bearcat team has come together in support for its teammate. That is how a team reacts when something like that happens.

It's that way on every level in the sports world, whether it is high school basketball or major league baseball. One instance was the death of pitcher Darryl Kile of the St. Louis Cardinals in 2002.

Approximately 5,000 fans—not teammates and friends, but people who had never personally met the man—paid tribute to Kile at the memorial service days after his death.

He meant so much to his manager, Tony La Russa, that he has Kile's practice jersey hanging in his office.

All of major league baseball came together for Kile's family, just as they did last October when the New York Yankees lost pitcher Cory Lidle to an airplane accident. It doesn't matter what team they were on or what position they played, they were players of the game. That is all the major leagues and fans cared about.

Athletes are heroes to many. Some may find that a crazy statement to make.

Soldiers defend our freedom, firefighters save lives and our parents taught us everything we need to know about life.

So why athletes of all people? Athletes live out our dreams. They do everything we wish we could have done instead of working a 9-to-5 job five days a week.

They are there for us every weekend when we have time off, and even with a loss, they never let us down.

They help us remember the glory days when we were in high school and were heroes to the younger generation. And while they work just as hard, if not harder than everyone else, they seem to have the easy life we can only dream of.

Qaoud is now a hero. After waking up to a burning apartment Saturday, he scrambled to the window.

To save his life he was forced to jump out. Does that classify him as a hero?

According to a Facebook group titled "Abe Qaoud is my hero," Wednesday afternoon, 800 people think he is.

For someone who survived third degree burns, a fractured eye socket and ribs, a bruised lung, and a separated shoulder, I think it's up to you to decide.

Is Qaoud a hero, or merely a survivor?

Personally, I think he can be labeled as both.

QUESTIONABLE CALL



NORTHWEST MEN'S basketball head coach Steve Tappmeyer reacts to a call by the referees during the Jan. 17 game against Truman State.

-NFL

Super Bowl player predictions

By MCT Campus

Here are the Top 5 probable Super Bowl MVPs for both teams:

If the Colts win:

1. Peyton Manning. Genius, I know. Who would ever predict Manning would get the glory in a Colts win? Well, my friends, it's based on several minutes of research. Did you know that quarterbacks have won the Super Bowl MVP in 20 out of 40 Super Bowls?

We can assume that if the Colts beat the Bears, Manning will have dissected the Bears' great defense and subjected some poor defensive backs to their worst "SportsCenter" nightmares.

2. Bob Sanders. Only two safeties have won the Super Bowl MVP: the Dolphins' Jake Scott and Tampa Bay's Dexter Jackson. But Sanders' impact on the Colts defense has been nothing short of transforming, and if they contain Thomas Jones and Cedric Benson, much of the credit will go to Sanders. Plus, if they slow the running game, Bears quarterback Rex Grossman may have to pass more than he wants to, and again Sanders could come up big.

If the Bears win:

1. Urlacher. Only two linebackers have won the award: the Cowboys' Chuck Howley (despite losing to the Colts in Super Bowl V) and the Ravens' Ray Lewis. Urlacher has to be the Bears' prohibitive favorite because of the way he disrupts offenses and directs the defense. If the Bears win, they'll likely have rattled Manning. T-shirts touting Super Bowl XLII feature Manning vs. Urlacher. Those two are the faces of their franchises.

2. Grossman. Conventional wisdom says that Grossman's job is as much not to lose the game for the Bears as it is for him to win it. However, I refer back to the valuable insight offered earlier in this column: quarterbacks have won 20 of 40 Super Bowl MVP awards. Grossman's quick start this season was forgotten during his record lows on the field, but when he's hot, he's actually a good quarterback.

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-MHS BOY'S BASKETBALL

Slumping 'Hounds fall hard

By Sam Robinson
Chief Reporter

The Maryville boys' basketball team won't be sorry to see January go.

The team suffered its fourth loss in its past five games Tuesday night in the form of a 64-44 defeat at Platte County.

The loss drops the once 6-6 Spoonhounds to 7-10 going into the final month of the season.

Coach Mike Kuwitzky saw his team simply get outplayed.

"We had a rough night," Kuwitzky said. "They had a good team, we didn't, and that was all."

Maryville opened up the second quarter within seven points of Platte County, but consistent points in the paint propelled the Pirates to a 31-20 halftime lead.

The second half saw the Pirates' lead increase as they were outscored the 'Hounds in each of the two remaining quarters to ultimately fall by 20.

Assistant coach Ryan Tool saw his team battle through the first period but endure several lapses on defense throughout the rest of the game.

"It was probably one of our weaker defensive performances," Tool said. "We had a hard time stopping their drives and it was very tough going on the defensive end. That was the difference."

Leading scorer Andy Walter once again paced the 'Hounds with 15 points while senior forward Blake Jensen netted 10 from inside.

This loss comes on the heels of an 80-44 hammering Friday night at the hands of St. Joseph-Benton's and Division I prospect Johnny Coy's 38 points.

Tool realizes that it will be a struggle to get back to .500 on the season but feels if the team plays like they're capable of playing that they can get there.

"We need to play very well," Tool said. "We got five remaining games and hopefully we can win four out of five if we're playing our best ball. If not we could lose the next five games."

Maryville continues conference play against 13-6 Smithville Friday night. The freshmen tip at 5 p.m., with the junior varsity and varsity squads immediately following.

FINALE: 'Hounds place 5th in home tournament

continued from B1

Archer said. "There is a lot of potential and we need to get more reps as a team."

Archer pinned Mount Ayr, Iowa's Jessi Smith for third place. Runner-up Pat Cervantes handed Archer his only loss of the tournament.

Cervantes escaped with an 8-7 decision.

"I did OK," Archer said. "I can always do better. But to look at it positively, I ranked a goal by placing."

Dannen Merrill, ranked No. 3 in the state, finished first for the 'Hounds. Merrill edged Connor Christensen 6-3 in the final round.

Merrill's only other match ended in a 17-3 major decision over Matt Zamora.

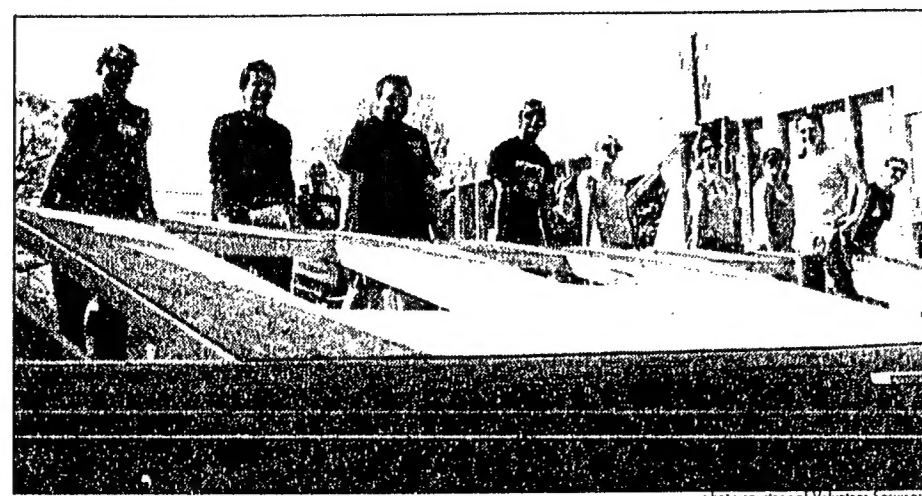
Maryville's Cliff Robertson, Luke Lancaster and Tyler Hayse also placed. Robertson pinned his first two opponents, but lost by fall to Chad Utt in the final.

"I was a little disappointed," Robertson said. "I have beat him before, but hopefully I can finish out the season well."

Robertson beat Utt in their season's first bout, but fell 13-12 in their second contest.

Spring into action

Many students are willing to give up their spring break to help others



NORTHWEST STUDENTS lift a wall into place while building a house for Habitat for Humanity. Around 30 students spent their 2006 Spring Break in Birmingham, Ala.

By Lindsay Jacobs
Assistant Features Editor

This spring she will be three for three. Senior Jamie Eickoff, will be one of the few to go on all three Northwest Alternative Spring Breaks.

In 2005, Eickoff, saw a flyer, and the idea of going to Florida and helping others intrigued her.

"I've always been into volunteering," Eickoff said.

Alternative Spring Break is a not-for-profit volunteer program at Northwest which sends students to various national locations, the students on these trips work in communities with issues including social justice, environmental health, disaster relief and recovery.

Amy Nally, volunteer programs and service learning coordinator, said ASB gives students an opportunity to work with other students in communities that have experienced a disaster or if they are in need of assistance.

"It helps a student grow and learn about themselves while working to assist others who are in need in the community," Nally said. "It's a life-changing experience that can challenge and expand your understanding of yourself and society."

ASB also helps students understand others and what they are going through, Nally said.

This year an estimated 30 students will travel to Miami from March 17 to 24 and build houses with the Habitat for Humanity-Collegiate Challenge.

Collegiate Challenge is an alternative break program that lasts year-round, according to Habitat.org.

The trip will cost students \$300, which includes transportation, housing, food, entertainment, the participation fee for Habitat for Humanity, accidental insurance and a T-shirt.

Fund-raising options are available and students are asked to raise an additional \$100 by selling Pizza Hut and Sonic cards. Students must also turn in 10 names and addresses with their application to send donation letters. Any additional money they raise beyond the \$100 will go towards their \$300 expense.

Freshman Kendra Sogard plans to go on ASB this spring. She said her sister went her freshman year and she really liked it.

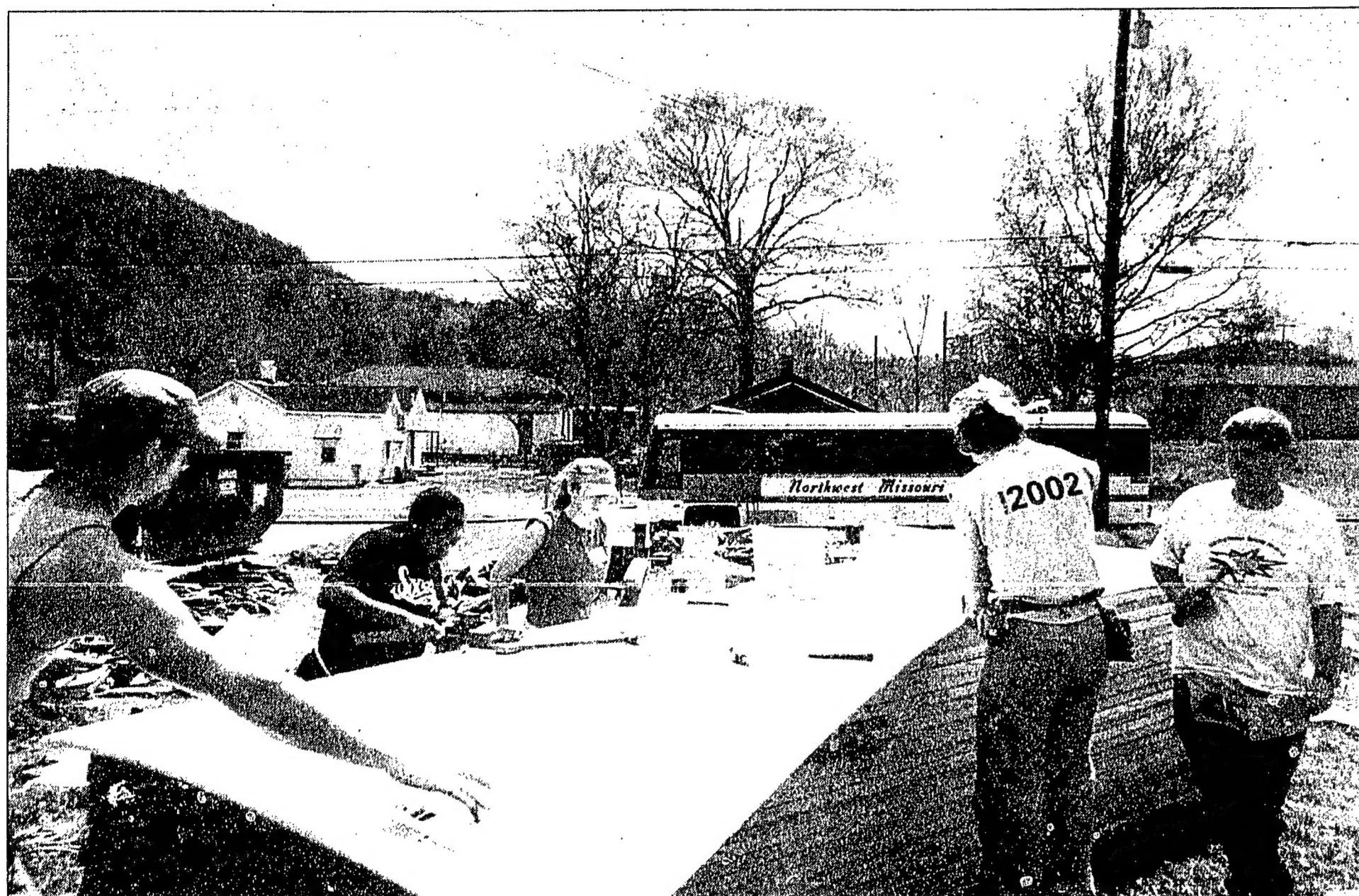
Sogard is looking forward to meeting new people.

People have the rest of their lives to go to traditional spring break destinations, Eickoff said.

"You can go to Cancun any time in your life, but you only get one chance to make a difference in somebody's life during spring break," Eickoff said.

In 2005, about 30 Northwest students to Winter Park, Fla., to work with ESTEEM Inc., a not-for-profit organization that provides children's programs that target academics, employability skills and literacy.

ESTEEM is an acronym for Enhancing Self-



BEARCAT VOLUNTEERS work on a Habitat for Humanity construction site Spring Break, 2006. This year volunteers will travel to Florida to work with Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge in Miami.

sufficiency Through Education, Employment and Multiculturalism.

The group ran a spring break camp put on by ESTEEM for children who didn't have anywhere to go for Spring Break, Eickoff said.

The group served as mentors for the children, whose ages ranged from eight to 15, Eickoff said.

"They took the children to the playground, taught some of them how to tie their shoes and read with them."

"I like kids so I guess it was just being able to give them a spring break so they weren't sitting home watching television all day," Eickoff said. "They could actually get outside and play... it was just really good to have an impact

on somebody." The children asked for the students' addresses, and even though she never received any letters, Eickoff said she wrote a couple of letters to the children.

Last year ASB traveled to Birmingham, Ala., and worked with Habitat for Humanity. The students divided into two groups to work at two sites. Eickoff's group built the roof and did the wood work on the inner walls.

She was excited to build a house because it was a new experience. "The first day was kind of nerve-racking because you're building a house for someone and you don't want to mess up," Eickoff said.

The site supervisor she worked with told the students what they had to do, and encouraged them to try new things and equipment, Eickoff said.

Sophomore Tiffany Hunter also went on the trip last spring. She decided to go because it was inexpensive and would be a new experience.

Hunter said the Habitat for Humanity people were helpful and tolerant. Although she is not able to go this year due to prior commitments, she recommends people giving ASB a try.

Those who are interested in participating ASB can contact Nally at 562-1954 or pick up an application in her office in the Student Affairs Complex. Application deadline is Friday, Feb. 2.

"I'd encourage anybody thinking about going to really considerate it, it's a great experience," Eickoff said. "You get to meet a lot of awesome people, you get to help a lot of awesome people."

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Where they've been:
■ Winter Park, Fla.
Helped with Spring Break camp for children
■ Birmingham, Ala.
Helped build houses with Habitat for Humanity

Brainiac's Tips:
Eat breakfast! Eating protein for breakfast will improve your concentration and your ability to complete complex tasks.
Call the Talent Development Center at 562-1726 for appointments

Where they're going:
■ Miami
To participate in Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge
Visit the Student Affairs Complex for more information
www.nwmissourianews.com

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AT YOUR LEISURE

—HOROSCOPES

Today's Birthday (2-1-07).

Follow through this year on projects you've already started. There are big bucks to be made if you're perseverant. Also keep your costs down so you end up with a profit.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today is a 6 — Allow events to transpire naturally, while watching. You're in for a pleasant surprise. Believe in miracles.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today is a 7 — The more you study, the more you see the great value in having good friends. Today is a good time to have them help you carry a heavy burden.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Today is a 9 — Gather up as much as you can, graciously of course. More money and status for doing less manual labor is your objective.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Today is an 8 — Move quickly, and use your imagination. You can solve an old problem simply by trying something you've never done before.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today is a 7 — Follow through on the project instigated yesterday. Once that's done, it'll be easy to see what you need to do next.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today is a 7 — Continue to encourage your teammates to advance toward the goal. They can accomplish amazing things with your direction and support.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today is an 8 — Concentrate on understanding exactly what's requested. Then, provide something the client will like even better.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today is a 6 — Follow through with confidence and intense concentration. Land your catch carefully; don't let it get away.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is a 7 — A private family celebration is in order. Do something nice for the others, even if you don't like it yourself. They'll think you're wonderful, and you'll gain points.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today is a 7 — If you get nothing else done today, let people know how much you appreciate what they've done for you and are doing for you now. Without them, you're nowhere near as effective.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is an 8 — Nobody's going to tell you what to do in this situation. You get to figure it out and hold yourself to your own schedule. You get to take all the risks, and you'll get all the credit.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today is a 7 — The people who know you best believe you can do just about anything. Don't argue, that would be disrespectful. Give it your best shot.

—STROLLER

Your Man worships the iPod



can hear them back-to-back on my Shuffle.

It's like my own daily, customized Live Aid show. Rock!

But, like most addictions, this one does have its downsides. For one, there are some occasions where I think I become a little too engrossed with the music. It always starts with me just snapping my fingers to the beat as I head out across campus from the Tower Suites. By the time I get to the Administration Building, I'm snapping and walking in time. And by the time I reach Wells Hall, I'm practically doing full-scale choreography.

Seriously, one time I nearly tripped while on the Centennial Statue. The second, and probably slightly more serious, side effect of owning an iPod is the very noticeable decrease in communication I have with my environment. Before, I was perfectly content with listening to the natural sounds of campus (you know, the wind blowing, footsteps coming and going, motorists

slamming on their brakes to avoid hitting oblivious, iPod-donning students in crosswalks).

But now it's like I absolutely have to have music whenever I go. I'm practically to the point of snapping at anyone who tries to talk to me while "Rock the Casbah" is on. Maybe it's because of the pride I have for the music I choose to listen to.

Maybe I'm going insane and need some serious help.

In any case, I hope it doesn't reach the point where when I talk to someone, I say what I want to say to the tune of the current song playing. Or worse, I stop talking completely and start carrying a notebook around to write down what I want to say to others, like that guy from "Little Miss Sunshine."

Yet part of me is apathetic. Part of me says, "Screw it, man. Your life has a soundtrack. There's no way out of it. Now press play and shut up already."

And you know what? I'm happy with that. I attribute a lot of my success at Northwest to having that perfect song to pick me up when stress knocks me down, or to help me celebrate my various accomplishments. If I have to stand a few weird looks from passing classmates, so be it.

Now then, if you'll excuse me, I gotta cut loose, footloose...

—MOVIE REVIEW

Dane Cook, don't quit day job

By James Evans
Missourian Reporter

The frigid temperatures outside last weekend made me realize that it'd be the perfect time to stay in and rent a movie that hadn't looked good enough to see in theaters. So, I rented "Employee of the Month."

My initial instincts were confirmed. This movie wouldn't have been worth the price of a theater ticket. It was hardly worth the rental fee. In fact, don't see it unless someone else pays for it and you have absolutely nothing else to do.

The film stars fast-rising comedy star Dane Cook, Dax Shepard ("Punk'd") and Jessica Simpson's character, who allegedly has a thing for "employee of the month" winners.

The movie requires Simpson to do nothing but say one or two sentences at a time and wear low-cut shirts. This should've hurt her self-esteem as an actress, but I'm sure she didn't notice. She delivers lines like "OK" and "That's great" with such conviction... it's inspiring.

Shepard is also not funny as the villain. We are supposed to believe that his character can attract nearly any woman simply because he's the fastest cashier in his region. Most of his dialogue is shared with his whistling sidekick Jorge. Jorge is played by the guy who played Pedro in "Napoleon Dynamite." His character is totally pointless. He simply

repeats everything that Shepard says. I'd like to congratulate the Pedro/Jorge-guy on the niche he's created for himself in Hollywood: the seldom-speaking Hispanic character.

I laughed maybe twice in this whole movie and I can't even remember when. Nothing annoys me more than a comedy that is completely unoriginal. Even if I don't laugh at a movie, I can at least appreciate an attempt to be creative. This movie doesn't have that and sometimes the dialogue sounds like it was written by a 12-year-old.

Don't get me wrong. "Employee of the Month" wasn't one of the worst movies I've ever seen. It was just completely pointless and unmemorable. It's almost criminal to put a person as charismatic and comically gifted as Cook in such a boring role that doesn't exhibit any of his strengths. With this being his first major movie role, hopefully we'll see him in something better in the future.

I'd advise skipping this movie entirely and instead picking Cook's two comedy CDs, "Harmful If Swallowed" and "Retaliation." I guarantee you'll laugh much more.

Crossword

ACROSS
1 The 4 Seasons singer Frank
6 Exploited
10 Former SNL rival
14 Biblical patriarch
15 Stout's Wolfe
16 Mrs. Dimers of "Bordie"
17 Designer Clark
18 Know-nothing
20 Set the stage for
22 Least cooked
23 Faberage item
24 Vex
26 Wababodon's state
27 Granny
28 Bay window
31 Instigates litigation
32 Keeps busy
34 Touched down
36 L.A. summer hit
37 Confederate
39 Incite
41 One NCO
44 Sally drop
45 One's milieu
50 Scariest's estate
52 Great
54 Display muscle
55 Arkin and King
57 Queen's river
59 Picnic speller
60 Roof for salads
61 Available buyer
64 Roger's book
65 "The Count"
67 Asian country
68 Occurrence of
69 Good fortune
70 Best or Ferber
71 Spacious boats
72 Landlord's revenue
DOWN
1 Temptatious
2 African javelin
3 Pasta dish
4 Deported
5 Frost over
6 Go-between
7 Gullible Andros
8 European eagle
9 Access
10 Alarms
11 Asses
12 Hog-tied
13 Most extensive
19 Cheerleader's cheer
21 "The Count"
25 Morays or congers
26 Occurrence of
28 Candler of Coca-Cola
29 Mouth the words
30 Mouth the words
33 Most remote, briefly
35 Egyptian boy king
38 Thanksgiving veggie
39 Bili. flyboys
40 Frigthen
41 Hoop
42 Knight of the Round Table
43 Exploit
45 Sears, & Company
47 Defame
48 Not fever
49 Coerces
51 Jones of "Family Affair"
53 Small gazebos
56 8-digit ID org.
58 Food consumer
61 Hoop
63 Sialistic site
65 Play about mech. men

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Solutions
ACROSS
1 The 4 Seasons singer Frank
6 Exploited
10 Former SNL rival
14 Biblical patriarch
15 Stout's Wolfe
16 Mrs. Dimers of "Bordie"
17 Designer Clark
18 Know-nothing
20 Set the stage for
22 Least cooked
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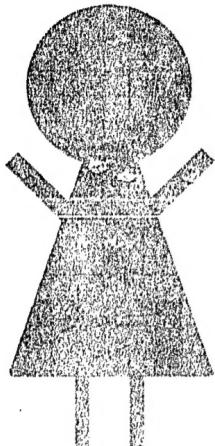
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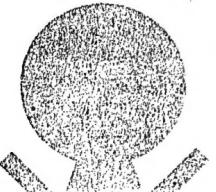
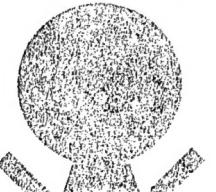
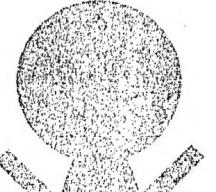








**Each year,
2 out of every 5
women diagnosed
with cervical cancer
DIE.**

Get vaccinated for HPV; you can be
ONE LESS

By Tara Adkins
Features Editor

After coming home from class, Northwest junior Erin Murphy received an unexpected phone call. On the other end, her mother reassured her everything would be OK.

Despite the upbeat sound of her voice, Murphy knew her mother was sick and as a family, provided her with comfort and support.

It started as a virus, but developed into complications, precancerous cells and eventually into cervical cancer.

"We were obviously scared and worried for her, but we all knew she was going to be OK in such early stages," Murphy said. "Today, three years later, she's doing great."

Through her mother's persistence, Murphy took action to prevent the virus, that struck her mother, from ever reaching her.

"My mom had it when she was our age, but no one knew about the problems it would cause then," Murphy said.

Recent television commercials flood the airwaves with the message insisting on telling someone to become one less statistic.

Although a virus may commonly be thought of as just a bug, the Human Papillomavirus creates a threat for women and men.

Last summer, Merck and Co. launched Gardasil, the vaccine for young women aimed at preventing exposure to the sexual transmitted disease, HPV.

About 80 percent of sexually active people become exposed to HPV in their lifetime, according to the American Social Health Association.

"HPV has become so prevalent and this is how we can stop this virus from spreading," said Teri Harr, health education coordinator at

St. Francis Hospital.

HPV has several strains that cause no harm. However, Gardasil protects against four, high-risk HPV strains: types six, 11, 16 and 18.

These types can develop into abnormal cell changes and genital infections and cause for over 70 percent of cervical cancer and 90 percent of genital warts, according to Merck.

Through a series of three shots over six months, the vaccine is intended for protection for eight to 10 years. The vaccine is recommended for ages nine to 26 because it is most effective when a young woman has not yet had sex or when a woman is most susceptible of being exposed to HPV.

"Risk factors go down as a person matures because a woman usually begins limiting sexual partners and becoming more stable in relationships the older she gets," said Judy Frueh, University nurse practitioner.

Although doctors still require regular Pap smears and DNA tests, the vaccine proves to be 99.8 percent effective.

Also, Gardasil still protects women who are already infected with one of the four HPV types against the three other types of HPV they could possibly be exposed to.

With such a high efficiency rate comes a hefty price. St. Francis Hospital offers the injections at \$156 per dose. To complete the series, a woman will have to empty her wallet for almost \$500. However, the University Health Center offers a cheaper rate, yet still at \$130 for each dose.

"If I was a young lady and I could take a vaccine that would prevent cervical cancer and other risks, it'd be worth it," said Pat Harr, St. Francis family physician.

When the vaccine was first approved by the Food and Drug Administration, few insurance

carriers would cover it because most plans do not cover preventive vaccines. However, seven months later, several private health plans are just now beginning to offer coverage.

"We give a lot of those shots here. St. Francis Family Healthcare is giving more and more because insurance can now cover it," Teri said.

Because men can also carry the virus, Merck has performed tests on the vaccine's effect on young men. However, the tests proved the vaccine was not helpful for men but finding prevention for them is the next step, Pat said.

The Gardasil advertisements show mothers and daughters entangled in hugs and young girls playing double-dutch jump rope chanting "O-N-E-L-E-S-S, I want to be one less."

The ads and statistics make Gardasil seem nothing but positive, but to some parents it is encouraging sex for young women.

"The big issue here is that it is promoting sexual promiscuity, but we are eradicating cervical cancer," Frueh said. "The bottom line is to keep kids healthy."

Despite the stigma in the general population, health care experts stress how Gardasil message is prevention.

"Young women should have very few sexual partners and regular Pap smears. Although (Pap smears) detect signs early on, it's not prevention like the vaccine," Teri said. "The benefits outweigh the risks."

Like Gardasil's message, Murphy spreads the word after getting the vaccine to her friends about her mother's experience and her own prevention.

"I'm not ashamed. I did something all women should do. I'm telling everyone I know," Murphy said.

